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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 78% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 77,690 | Nifty 23,559 | Gold 75,196 | Silver 90,140 | Dollar 84.38 | Euro 89.71 | GBP 107.61

LAST RIDE

6 deaths in 3 days; accidents taking their toll on city with 3,969 cases till October, including 705 fatal ones

PAGE 3

HOME ALONE

Hundreds of home and site owners, including ex-servicemen, face eviction threat because of Tahasildar's order

PAGE 4

Research shows how urbanisation of Bengaluru has impacted food security: Over last 2 decades, nearly 35% of farmers in North Bengaluru, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli sold their land

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Urban real estate increased from 15.93 to 18.34 hectares

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

City-based researchers have highlighted that the rapid and large-scale urbanisation of Bengaluru has increased food insecurity for farmers and other marginalised communities in and around the city.

A study by researchers from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, and ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture, Namkum, Ranchi, shows that Bengaluru's urban sprawl has transformed productive agricultural land into built-up areas, thus disempowering farmers and rural communities.

Over the last two decades, nearly 35% of rural farmers in North Bengaluru, Doddaballapur, and Devanahalli have sold their land, impacting their food security.

Researchers interacted with 60 farmers each in the rural-urban interface in the north of the city. The results revealed that between 2000 and 2011, urban real estate increased from 15.93 hectares to 18.34 hectares. Moreover, in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Balancing the demands of urban growth with the preservation of arable lands is crucial to ensuring the long-term prosperity and food security of the region —Researchers

Case of missing teachers

Schools in state are 1.41 lakh teachers short; 6,400 govt schools have just 1 teacher

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Karnataka has earned a dubious distinction of having the highest number of teacher vacancies in the country with a whopping shortage of 1.41 lakh teachers across the state. Educationists said that the significant gap is affecting the quality of education in schools.

The recent report from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) on the Right to Education (RTE) Act highlights this issue, stressing that an increase in the number of Kannada-medium students in government schools seems unlikely under the current circumstances. The steady decline in enrollments each year has raised concerns about the survival of Kannada language education.

According to sources, "Currently, 6,400 government schools in the state operate with only a single teacher, and 23,000 schools have fewer than 50 students. An estimated 39,000 teachers are expected to retire by 2028. The RTE Act mandates one teacher for every 30 students in primary schools and one for every 35 students in higher primary schools, but the actual teacher-student ratio does not meet these standards."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Celebrating love & life

Get whisked away into a night of rhythm and harmony as Rotary District 3191 and RBM GENNEXT present "Gift of Life," an event celebrating the 101 birth anniversary of legendary Dev Anand along with a fundraising event. The musical evening fete is being organised to support 200+ heart surgeries, providing life-saving care to children born with congenital heart conditions and breadwinners. Well-known musicians, Govind Kurnool, Sheelu Mehta, Samanvitha Sharma, and Narssimhan Kannan from Bengaluru, Apoorv Sharma from Jaipur, and Priyanka Mitra from Mumbai, will enthrall you with their beautiful voices. **Where: Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Kanakapura Road; When: November 17, 5:30 pm**

02 Children's outing

Have you heard of the Sweet Shop Wars? Or asked too many questions like Cyrus the Whyrus? Get hooked as Hook Book Day by Atta Galatta presents 'Let's Get Hooked!' a children's fest by Duckbill. Join in and hear from authors, storytellers, and illustrators who helped create your favourite Hook books, participate in fun activities, and most importantly, stick your nose in a new book! **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar When: November 16, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm**

Act of donating new life

The family of 37-year-old Debadatta Patra, who was declared brain dead on November 4, 2024, have decided to donate his healthy organs. With support from his wife and family, they decided to donate his kidneys, liver, heart, and corneas to give others a chance at life.

Originally from Odisha and living in KR Puram, Bengaluru, Debadatta had suffered a cardiac arrest, was rushed to a local hospital, revived, but remained unconscious due to severe brain injury from oxygen deprivation. On October 29, after two days of ICU monitoring, he was transferred to Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, for advanced care. Despite efforts to stabilise him, a brain stem test and CT angiogram showed no blood flow to the brain, confirming brain death. His other organs were stable, allowing his family to consider organ donation. Dr Sunil Karanth from Manipal Hospital stated, "Organ donation rates in India remain low, but choices like Debadatta's family made offer hope to those awaiting transplants and raise awareness for this cause."

Exam board urges caution against unauthorised schools

With SSLC exams approaching soon, KSEAB asks authorities, parents, students to watch out for unregistered schools while registering for board exams

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has issued a caution to ensure vigilance against unauthorised schools while registering students for the SSLC examination. If students from unrecognised institutions are admitted for exams, Block Education Officers (BEOs) will be held accountable for any resulting issues.

An official said, "Private schools lacking accreditation are now included in the list of unauthorised institutions in the state. Such schools will not be granted recognition, even as the SSLC exam approaches, putting enrolled students in a difficult position. In the past, some of these schools have taken the issue to court for last-minute approvals."

The 2025 SSLC annual exam is tentatively scheduled for March, with approximately eight lakh students from over 15,000 schools expected to participate. "To protect students' interests, the Board has arranged for students from unauthorised schools to be mapped to nearby government schools to take their exams," the official added.

Accountability for BEOs

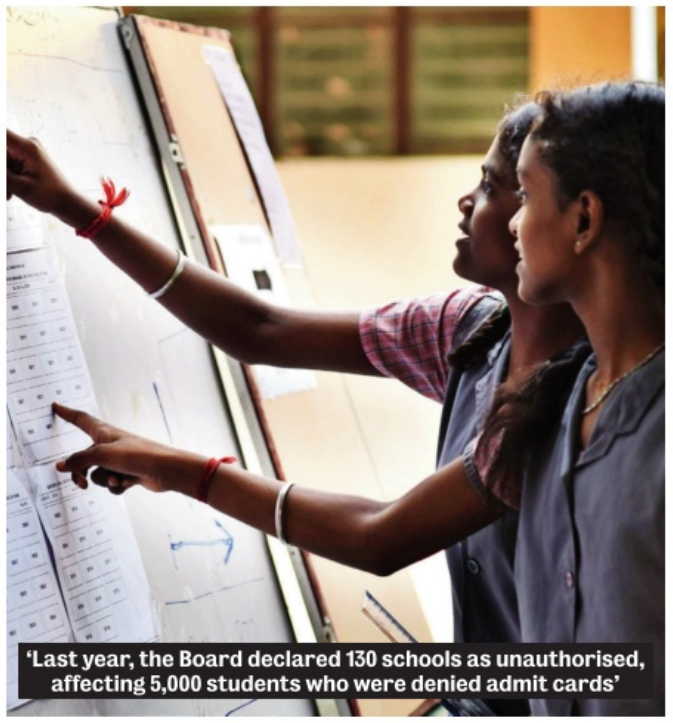
Officials said that some secondary schools have applied without the necessary departmental approvals for recognition and medium of instruction, an issue the Board is treating seriously. "This situation also leads to confusion among parents. To address this, the Board has mandated that management boards clearly display their school's authorisation details on signage. Any disruption to students' exams due to lack of recognition will result in the direct accountability of respective Deputy Directors (Administration) and BEOs," said an official.

Details on unauthorised schools

The KSEAB has instructed the BEOs for clear identification and reporting of unauthorised schools, with measures to prevent unauthorised institutions from submitting proposals. Last year, unauthorised schools submitted such requests, forcing disciplinary actions by the board. Identifying these schools at the beginning of the academic year is crucial to prevent future issues.

In Karnataka, 1,695 out of the 17,329 private schools are unauthorised, as per the Education Department. The Department has previously released lists of recognised schools to BEO offices at the start of the academic year, yet unauthorised institutions continue to operate undetected.

Last year, the Board declared 130 schools as unauthorised, affecting 5,000 students who were denied admit cards. While a few schools gained recognition after a grace period, remaining students were transferred to government schools to appear for exams.



'Last year, the Board declared 130 schools as unauthorised, affecting 5,000 students who were denied admit cards'

> **"Private schools lacking proper accreditation are now included in list of unauthorised institutions in state**
> – Official

Kannada language education under threat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Neetha K, a school teacher, called the shortage of teachers deeply concerning. "It has far-reaching implications on the quality of education students receive and the workload of existing teachers. When there aren't enough teachers, the student-teacher ratio increases, and teachers are often forced to handle oversized classrooms. This not only dilutes the personalised attention each student requires but also reduces the effectiveness of teaching as instructors struggle to manage large groups. Learning outcomes suffer as a result, and we see a decline in basic skills, problem-solving abilities, and overall academic performance among students." Moreover, the increased workload severely impacts teachers themselves. "Teachers face higher levels of stress, burnout, and job dissatisfaction, which can lead to absenteeism or even attrition from the profession. When one teacher is responsible for multiple roles, including administrative tasks, the focus shifts from teaching to managing, further diminishing the quality of education. A quality education system hinges on sufficient, well-trained teachers. For our schools to be places of learning and growth, filling these vacancies must be a priority. Without it, we risk widening the learning gap and jeopardising the future of our students," added Girish Gowda, an educator.

115 govt schools with zero students

The report warns that unfilled vacancies are likely to have adverse effects on educational standards. Education experts question how government schools can be sustained under these conditions, and without them, where children will learn Kannada. According to a UNESCO report, 15% of government school teachers and 30% of private school teachers in Karnataka lack the minimum qualifications. The report also notes low participation in teacher training programs, affecting teaching quality.

Meanwhile, a joint report by the Education Department and Azim Premji University for 2023-24 reveals that 115 government schools in Karnataka have no students enrolled, while 241 schools have just 1-10 students. Additionally, the recruitment process for 15,000 teachers remains incomplete, leaving many positions still unfilled. Teacher shortages are causing delays in scheduled classes in government schools, impacting exam results.

FIR filed against Hindutva activist

An FIR has been registered by the Chamarajapete police against Hindutva activist Puneeth Kerehalli for allegedly using abusive language against Housing, Waqf, and Social Welfare Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, issuing threats, and offending religious sentiments. According to the complaint, Kerehalli had posted offensive content on social media targeting Khan. The post also included derogatory remarks towards Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and communal slurs directed at Khan. Additionally, Kerehalli threatened the minister with severe consequences if he visited Hassan and Mandya districts. The accused, a resident of JP Nagar, has a criminal record, with over 10 cases against him, including charges of murder, attempted murder, and criminal intimidation, spread across the city and other regions of the state. — **BMB**

Traffic crackdown: 820 violations; Rs 4.1 lakh in fines

In a traffic enforcement drive, the East Traffic Division of Bangalore City Police conducted a special operation on Tuesday targeting several key traffic violations. The operation, designed to enforce traffic laws and raise public awareness about road safety, led to the registration of 820 cases and the collection of Rs. 4.1 lakh in fines.

The crackdown focused on common but dangerous traffic offences, including one-way violations, footpath parking, wrong parking, helmetless riding, and triple riding. A total of 112 cases were filed against motorists driving in the opposite direction of one-way traffic. In addition, 35 motorists were penalised for parking on footpaths, 43 were cited for riding on footpaths, and 100 cases were registered for wrong parking and parking in no-parking zones.

112 cases were filed for one-way violations, 35 for footpath parking

Earlier in the day, a smaller operation had already registered 290 cases, with a fine collection of Rs. 1.45 lakh. These efforts are part of the ongoing initiative to improve traffic discipline in the city and reduce road accidents, which have become a significant concern for public safety.

The East Traffic Division has stated that the special operation will continue in the coming days, with further enforcement of traffic rules aimed at ensuring safer roads. Police officials have urged the public to adhere to traffic regulations.

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Six killed in three days: B'luru's rising road toll

City reports 3,969 accidents & 723 deaths by October, leading to stricter traffic rules

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru's growing road safety crisis is highlighted by a sharp rise in accidents. As of October, the city reported 3,969 accidents, including 705 fatal crashes, leading to 723 deaths and 3,360 injuries.

On Tuesday evening, 27-year-old motorcyclist Manu CB died on Nayandahalli Ring Road while travelling from Nagarbhavi to Nayandahalli. According to the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police, Manu lost control of his bike after hitting loose sand on the service road. He first collided with the footpath and then with a goods vehicle. Manu sustained severe head and bodily injuries and succumbed to them en route to the Hospital.

While Bengaluru's streets have long been plagued by congestion, the increasing number of accidents reflects a deeper issue. However, it is the fatality rate that is of grave concern, as one in every six accidents results in death.

In the past three days, six people lost their lives in three separate accidents. A 23-year-old man, identified as Pritbi Bhooniya, lost his life in a motorcycle accident on the BGS flyover on Tuesday when his motorcycle struck the median and then collided with a pole on the flyover.

In another accident, two men, Ramesh (41), a truck driver, and Nabbi (35), an autorickshaw driver, were killed when a BMTC electric bus struck their two-wheeler on Kempegowda International Airport Road on Saturday night. Despite being rushed to the hospital, both were declared dead.

On Sunday morning, truck driver Manjunath (47) died after his truck collided with a parked vehicle on 19th Main Road, HSR Layout. The crash was caused by poor visibility and speeding. Manjunath succumbed to his injuries after being rushed to the hospital.

Bengaluru Traffic Police are intensifying enforcement to curb the rising number of accidents, focusing on helmet and seatbelt mandates, as well as strict action against speeding and drunk driving. In 2023, the city recorded 4,974 traffic accidents, including 882 fatal cases, resulting in 910 deaths. Special drives are also urging citizens to adopt safer driving practices and exercise more caution on the roads.

In 2023, B'luru saw 4,974 traffic accidents, with 882 fatalities, leading to 910 deaths

Measures to ease congestion near Jakkur Aerodrome include new service road from Yelahanka signal to Jakkur junction & entry/exit points at Yelahanka

NHAI to upgrade Airport Road

In response to rising congestion complaints from commuters, MLA Krishna Byre Gowda has collaborated with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Traffic Police to implement a series of infrastructure upgrades along Airport Road. A major element of the plan is the widening of the road near Military land, alongside the construction of a service road from Hebbal flyover to Military land, which will involve expanding the bridge over the Hebbal stormwater drain. The Military Farm bus stop will see enhancements to its bus bay.

Additional measures target congestion near Jakkur Aerodrome, where a new service road will be constructed from Yelahanka signal to Jakkur junction. At Yelahanka bypass, new entry and exit points will be established near Coffee Day on both sides, reducing bottlenecks. Authorities are also evaluating a potential entry and exit point at Palanahalli, between Yelahanka and Bagalur Cross, as well as U-turn provisions under the NH elevated road at selected locations to reduce detours.

New BMTC route

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has announced new bus services to Mayasandra Village via Byadarahalli. The new route will be operational from November 18.

According to the official press release, this new bus route will start from Kempegowda bus station (Majestic) and reach Mayasandra Village via Hebbal, Yelahanka, Devanahalli and Byadarahalli.

Man kills wife, arrested

A man was recently arrested for the murder of his 25-year-old wife in Gangondanahalli, under the jurisdiction of the Madanayakanahalli police. The accused, Siddarama, a 31-year-old private firm employee, was arrested on November 3 after fleeing to Dharmasthala after committing the crime.

Kokila, who worked in a garment factory, had been married to Siddarama for seven years. According to police, the incident occurred early in the morning on October 29 after an argument, during which Siddarama strangled Kokila. Her father, who lived nearby, discovered her body and immediately informed the police.

Madanayakanahalli police arrested Siddarama near Gangondanahalli railway station three days later. A murder case has been registered.

Green cess for ghat water users

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has suggested levying green cess on the cities that get water from rivers of Western Ghat. The Minister, on Wednesday, said that the Ghat area is the source of many rivers including Cauvery, Kabini, Hemavati, Krishna, Malaprabha, and Ghataprabha. "Water from these rivers is being supplied to many cities and towns in the state. However, these rivers also need to meet the state's future water needs. Thus, we believe that Western Ghat should be protected to ensure water security," said the Minister. He further added that if a green cess is levied on the water consumption bill of these cities and towns, this money can be used for the development of forest areas.

Eviction sword hangs over ex-soldiers' home

Site-owners knock HC door after Yelahanka Tahsildar issues eviction order to Sainik Vihar Layout residents

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Yelahanka Tahsildar's oversight in issuing an order is affecting the lives of many, including around 40 ex-servicemen who have long aspired to build homes in Sainik Vihar Layout, Kenchanahalli, near Yelahanka. Established in 1995 under the Gantiganahalli Panchayat, Sainik Vihar Layout was brought under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) jurisdiction in 2007.

For over two decades, individuals who purchased sites at Sainik Vihar Layout faced no issues, but now they are worried about not only their houses but also their safety. It all began when the tahsildar issued an order to evict people occupying agricultural land belonging to one Azmatullah Khan under Section 92(A) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964.

In issuing the order, the Tahsildar has misread Section 92(A), which is designed to penalise individuals for fabricating documents to unlawfully sell, mortgage, or transfer government land. This section, however, does not apply to private land such as Sainik Vihar.

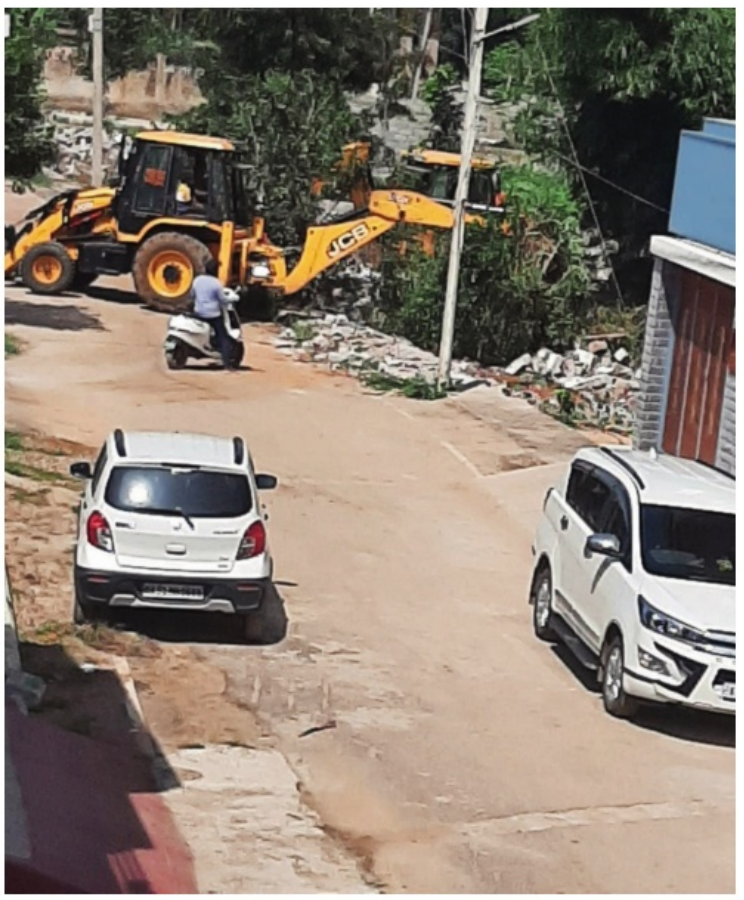
Sainik Vihar Site/House Owners' Welfare Association filed a writ petition in the High Court against the order but the High Court passed an order for the implementation of Tahsildar's order. Some who own sites at Sainik Vihar Layout obtained a stay order from the court against the implementation of the order.

The residents of Sainik Vihar Layout are asking the authorities to implement the High Court order as per the norms. An Executive Committee member of the Sainik Vihar Site/House Owners' Welfare Association said, "The High Court Government Pleader submitted to the High Court that the impugned order will be implemented only against the persons who are party to the proceedings and not against those who are not a party to the proceedings before respondent No 1. If anybody has to be evicted under the impugned order, the same will be done only after affording them an opportunity for a hearing. Now, some people have demolished compound walls and are threatening people who constructed buildings or own sites."

> **"The layout came under the BBMP's limits more than 15 years ago. I think that the Tahsildar has nothing to do with the private layout** – Resident

The ex-servicemen purchased sites at Sainik Vihar Layout with their savings, hoping to build homes in Bengaluru. However, the ongoing dispute over the ownership of the land has caused them to reconsider starting construction on their homes. "The layout came under the BBMP's limits more than 15 years ago. I think that the Tahsildar has nothing to do with the private layout," said one of the residents.

Sainik Vihar Site/House Owners' Welfare Association is planning to appeal in the High Court against the implementation of Tahsildar's order to evict the site and building owners. "We will file a petition in the High Court seeking justice," said RL Sharma, president of the association.



An earth moving machine at work in Sainik Vihar Layout

Beat the B'luru traffic: Bike-taxis for Namma Metro?

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

With Delhi Metro's recent launch of a bike-taxi service to tackle last-mile connectivity, Bengalureans are calling on Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to adopt a similar approach. Last-mile connectivity remains a significant challenge for Namma Metro commuters in Bengaluru, where overcrowded roads, limited public transport options, and often lengthy walks to and from stations add to daily commuting woes. Introducing a bike-taxi service, Bengalureans believe, could be the answer.

According to a Times of India report, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) recently launched a bike-taxi service at 12 metro stations on Monday. Commuters can book the bikes through Delhi Metro's Momentum 2.0 mobile app, with two options available: Sheryds, a service exclusively for women with women riders, and Rydr, accessible to all commuters. DMRC officials say that in the next month, over 100 stations will have this facility, with all remaining stations covered in the next three months, thereby expanding last-mile connectivity across DMRC's 250 stations.

"Reaching the metro station itself feels like a journey in Bengaluru," says Ananya Rao, a resident of Indiranagar. "With bike-taxis at metro stations, we could cut down our travel time significantly. Not everyone has access to autos or wants to drive in this traffic, so a bike-taxi would be perfect for that last bit of the commute. At present, many metro stations in Bengaluru are not seamlessly connected to nearby neighbourhoods. Commuters often struggle to find an efficient way to bridge the gap, leading to a dependence on private vehicles or autos, which can be unreliable and costly," she said.

Ravi Deshmukh, a frequent metro commuter and IT professional shares his experience, "I take the metro daily from Whitefield to MG Road, but the last-mile journey to my office is still a hassle. Auto drivers charge high fares, and walking takes too long. The idea of bike-taxis like Delhi's model would improve connectivity and make metro travel more viable for everyone. Introducing a similar system like Delhi, Bengaluru could help reduce the number of vehicles on the road and make metro travel more accessible, especially in high-traffic areas like Whitefield, Silk Board, and Yeshwanthpur."

"A lot of people hesitate to use the metro because it doesn't take them to their exact destination. By introducing bike-taxis, BMRCL could attract more commuters and improve ridership. The government needs to step in and support such innovative solutions for the growing traffic crisis. To make this plan effective, Bengalureans suggest that BMRCL should partner with ride-sharing companies or start its app-based service. Additionally, dedicated bike lanes or pick-up zones near metro stations could streamline the process. However, addressing safety and ensuring regulated fares would be essential to making the service reliable and affordable," said Priya Bharati, a Metro commuter.

Ashwin Kumar, an urban planner said, "Public transport should be seamless. With efficient last-mile options, we can get more people to use the metro, which in turn reduces road congestion. If BMRCL can follow Delhi's lead, we're looking at a future where commuting is faster and more sustainable. Bengaluru's citizens hope BMRCL considers this demand, viewing it as a necessary move."

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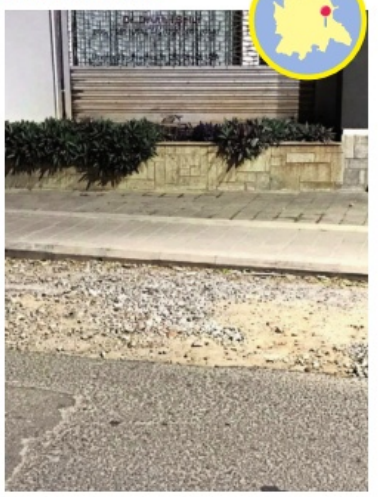
Road risk

Commercial Street

The police should address the hazardous driving conditions on city roads, especially near Commercial Street.

Danger zone

Lavelle Road



A section of Lavelle Road near Dental Lavelle, built under the Smart City Project, has sunk, posing a serious risk during rains.

Tree trouble

Kithiganur

Trees near Anjaneya Temple in Kithiganur, TC Palya, need trimming or removal.

Rape accused need not prove consent as defence: HC

Court says rape accused may get acquittal if prosecution is unable to prove lack of consent on minor victim's part

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The High Court has ruled that an accused in a rape case is not obligated to prove consent as a defence, and exercising the right to remain silent is adequate when the prosecution fails to establish its case. The court clarified that the accused's right to silence places the burden on the prosecution to demonstrate lack of consent during sexual intercourse. Failure to prove beyond reasonable doubt would result in the accused's acquittal.

A division bench comprising Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav and Justice Ramachandra D Huddar delivered this judgement whilst allowing an appeal and overturning a 2014 conviction of Khaja Hussain. The prosecution alleged that on October 21, 2009, the accused entered a farmhouse where the complainant's family was sleeping, abducted and confined her until October 25, 2009. The complainants claimed he forcibly raped her, knowing she was a minor from a Scheduled Caste. During the trial, the accused did not present a consent defence and simply denied the allegations when questioned under Section 313 of CrPC.

The pre-amended Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code defined rape as sexual intercourse with a woman: "firstly—against her will; secondly—without her consent; thirdly—with her consent...; sixthly—with or without her consent when she is under sixteen years of age."

The bench stated, "The right of the accused to remain silent by itself may have the effect of casting the burden on the prosecution to prove that the sexual intercourse was one without consent." The court noted that since the prosecution did not claim the offence fell under Section 376(2) (aggravated forms of rape), the absence of presumption under Section 114A of Indian Evidence Act, would lead to placing the burden on the prosecution to establish absence of consent.

The court also reviewed the prosecution's evidence concerning the rape allegation, specifically focusing on Rule 12 of the Juvenile Justice Rules, which specifies the acceptable documentation for age determination and others. "...It can be stated that the prosecution has failed to prove that the age of the victim is below sixteen years so as to avail the benefit of absence of consent in this case," the court stated.

The court emphasised that the prosecution's failure to meet this burden would result in the case's collapse. The accused has no obligation to prove consent, as this would contradict the presumption of innocence. The right to silence eliminates the need for the accused to actively demonstrate consent.

99 Marakumbi convicts get bail from HC

The HC's Dharwad Bench on Wednesday granted bail to 99 individuals from a group of 101 who were convicted in a ten-year-old case involving atrocities against Scheduled Caste members in Marakumbi village, Gangavati taluk, Koppal. The Principal District and Sessions Court in Koppal had delivered its verdict on October 24, following judge C Chandra Shekhar's ruling on October 21 that found 101 of 117 accused persons guilty. According to advocate Anand Kolli, the petitioners' advocate, the Bench considered various factors including delayed FIR filing, identification parade, and bail conditions before granting relief. Eight advocates represented the petitioners.

PIL on commercialisation of human breast milk

The Central government informed the HC on Wednesday that it had instructed the state government to revoke licences issued to private entities that permitted them to gather, handle, market, or commercialise human breast milk. The case involved a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Munegowda, expressing worries about multinational firms involved in breast milk collection and commercialisation.

Govt's all ears to listen, address concerns of rural children

Gram panchayats have been asked to prepare for 1-day child-friendly meetings

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Local authorities asked to prepare status report on condition of children

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj on Tuesday issued a circular advising all gram panchayats to make arrangements for conducting child-friendly meetings and organise a 10-week-long campaign from Thursday to January 24, 2025.

The circular stated that each gram panchayat has to organise a one-day special meeting for children. The circular stated that all gram panchayats have to organise a meeting to discuss the arrangements to be made for this special meeting. "The authorities have to revisit the decisions taken during the special meeting for children held in 2023-24 and action taken on implementing the decisions made during the special meeting held for children last year. The local authorities must avail their recommendations and suggestions and present the same during the special meeting for children to be held during the 10 weeks from November 14 to January 24, 2025," the circular read.

According to the circular, the local authorities, in association with ASHA workers and anganwadi workers, have to prepare the status and condition of children at ward level and panchayat level. "The report should be ready by November 20. Village Panchayat officials have to upload the report on Facebook. All the authorities have to be prepared to discuss the report on the condition of the children during the meeting," the circular read.

> **"Gram panchayats must pledge to protect children from abuse, exploitation, violence, to promote quality education, healthcare**
>
> –Nagasimha G Rao, Child Rights Trust

Meanwhile, child rights activists have welcomed the circular and described it as a good initiative for the development of children in rural areas. Nagasimha G Rao from the Child Rights Trust said for 35 years, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has been a beacon of hope for children worldwide, ensuring their rights to survival, protection, development, and participation. "This year's UN theme, 'Listen to the Future,' resonates deeply with our mission to amplify the voices of children. Our gram panchayats must pledge to protect children from exploitation, abuse, and violence, to promote quality education, healthcare, and nutrition, to empower children to participate in decision-making processes, and to foster a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and equality," he added.

HC Raghavendra, a former member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, noted the important role of these special meetings in the overall development of children in rural areas. "Children at villages will have an opportunity to highlight their problems and seek solutions during the meetings," he said.

Shankarappa D, a child rights activist, opined that special meetings for children should not be conducted for the sake of conducting. "I want all the village panchayat officials and elected members to conduct these meetings for children. The meetings should help children to assert their rights," Shankarappa added.

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Stream	No. of total vacancies	Vacancies reserved for				UR	Out of which reserved for PwBD			
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS		VI	HI	OC	MD/ID*
General	50	6	4	14	3	23	-	1#	-	2#
Total	**50**	**6**	**4**	**14**	**3**	**23**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**2**

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Stream	No. of total vacancies	Vacancies reserved for				UR	Out of which reserved for PwBD			
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS		VI	HI	OC	MD/ID
General	10	1	-	3	1	5	1	-	-	-
Legal	6	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
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Come April, set rules to properly dump debris

Recent draft policy aims to recycle 50% of construction waste by 2027 and prevent illegal dumping; local authorities will oversee segregation, disposal, use of recycled materials

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka government has sketched a draft policy for better management of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste in the state, including Bengaluru. The policy will come into effect from April 1, 2025.

The policy is expected to reuse and recycle at least 50% of C&D waste generated in municipal corporations' limits by December 2026. It will also confirm that at least 50% of C&D waste generated in ULBs (Urban local bodies) in Karnataka will be reused or recycled by December 2027 and will ensure that no C&D waste is dumped in open spaces in Karnataka by December 2027.

The document, in the draft stage, is open for public comments.

"The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had released one gazette, based on which, every state government is supposed to formulate a policy around management of C&D waste. The draft policy has been prepared by Karnataka and is given for circulation for comments from the public," said a senior official from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

The policy, in line with the Centre's 2016 Construction & Demolition Waste Management Rules, aims to sustainably manage rising waste in urban and rural areas, covering urban local bodies and zilla panchayats in Karnataka.

It is also aimed at relevant state authorities, waste generators including bulk waste generators, service providers, and other stakeholders for proper management of C&D waste and to control and minimise its indiscriminate illegal dumping.

"Most cities and gram panchayats in Karnataka do not have formal demolition permits and developers hire local contractors for demolition. The valuable materials resulting from demolition are salvaged by the informal sector, leaving behind the rubble. The majority of this waste often ends up in dumpsites or unauthorised places. The policy has been drafted to minimise illegal dumping," said an official.

At least 50% of C&D waste generated must be reused or recycled

What is C&D waste?

As per the C&D Rules, it is the waste comprising building materials, debris, and rubble resulting from the construction, remodelling, repair, and demolition of any civil structure. It is generated during the construction of new buildings, renovation of existing buildings, demolition of old buildings, excavation/laying of asphalt/concrete roads, installation and service of public utilities, and construction or renovation of public infrastructure such as bridges and flyovers.

BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru sends just 47.6 tonnes of construction & demolition waste each day for processing, while as per a conservative 2017 report, it generates 875 tonnes daily

RUBBLE TROUBLE

Almost 95% of waste being dumped here and there?

BM reported on November 13 that just 47.6 tonnes of C&D waste is being processed

Under the policy, every waste generator will be responsible for the segregation and storage of the C&D waste they generate. No person or organisation will be allowed to dispose of the waste on the streets, public spaces, footpaths, pavements, roads, water bodies, river banks, lake beds, forests, and other eco-sensitive areas or any other location that leads to harm to the environment.

Duties of authorities

The draft policy states that local authorities will be responsible for encouraging in-situ processing of C&D waste by generators and the use of recycled C&D waste products in construction to bring down transportation and processing costs.

Under the new rules, an assessment of C&D waste being generated in Karnataka will also be carried out by the local authorities within their jurisdiction. They will also be responsible for making arrangements for containers, regular collection, and transportation of C&D Waste in covered vehicles to processing and disposal facilities, either through itself or by appointing and registering private operators.

For monitoring and efficiency of the collection, storage, and transportation, advanced information management, mapping, and communication technologies such as GPRS, GPS, etc. would be used. It will also provide directions on the processing of the waste along with market development and promotion of C&D recycled products.

"While the draft policy appears promising, implementation will be the decisive factor in its success. We have not been able to manage this waste despite nearly a decade of C&D Waste Management Rules in existence. The government will also have to bring in a strict mandate for the reuse of recycled products," said a solid waste management expert.

Sustainable urban planning must to help rural communities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

last two decades about 50% of urban farmers, 46.25% of peri-urban farmers, and 35% of rural farmers sold their land.

Lower income

Farmers who sold their agricultural land as they got less income from agriculture, suggested that as the area under cultivation decreased, their income also decreased. Fragmentation and sale of agricultural land were the two major factors leading to lower agricultural income relative to the total income of farm households.

According to the 2000-01 censuses, while about 37.79% and 38.20% of the total population in the areas studied were working in agriculture, this declined to 22.80% and 25.23% in Doddaballapur and Devanahalli taluks, respectively, by the 2011 census. This shift indicated that a significant portion of the population transitioned from traditional agricultural occupations to other forms of livelihood.

Sustainable planning

Experts say there is an urgent need for sustainable urban planning and agricultural policies to balance urban expansion so as to preserve agricultural resources and rural communities' well-being.

"The study underscored the need for sustainable land-use planning that considered the interests of both urban development and rural agriculture. Balancing the demands of urban growth with the preservation of arable lands is crucial to ensuring the long-term prosperity and food security of the region. Policy interventions were essential to support marginalised farmers, promote sustainable practices, provide alternative livelihoods, and protect agricultural lands," noted the researchers.

By fostering inclusive growth and equitable land use, policies can mitigate the adverse effects of urban sprawl and pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient future for both urban and rural communities.

The study was conducted by Udaykumar MS from ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture, Ranchi, and Vaishnavi, Manojkumar Patil, and Suman L from UAS, Bengaluru, and was published in the Indian Journal of Economics and Development.

Aadhaar ID crucial for secure property deals

Rule requiring ID papers for property registration gets positive feedback, with 60% of registrations using verification system to prevent fraud

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The rule requiring an Aadhaar, passport, or PAN card for property registration in the state has been well-received. Officials noted that about 60% of registrations last month used Aadhaar verification, which is encouraging.

An official said, "To prevent fraudulent registrations through fake documents and identities, the Stamp and Registration Department has mandated submitting one of these three personal documents, including Aadhaar verification, for registration since September. There is speculation about a future decision to make Aadhaar verification mandatory, pending approval from the central government."

Rising property prices

Property prices have increased across most urban areas in the state, including Bengaluru. Following the government's revision of guideline rates last year, the real estate market has seen a surge in prices, leading to numerous illegal and unethical practices in property sales. Instances of selling properties under pretences and registering properties in the names of proxy individuals using hard-earned money have become widespread, putting families in severe distress. Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda said, "Aadhaar verification offers several key benefits, starting with the easy identification of genuine property owners. It plays a crucial role in preventing the registration of properties under fake names, thereby protecting the integrity of property transactions. Furthermore, Aadhaar verification promotes transparency regarding benami properties, ensuring that hidden ownership is revealed. It also allows for the disclosure of property details registered under individual or joint names, which enhances accountability in property dealings. The transition to mandatory Aadhaar verification is viewed as a significant advancement in safeguarding the integrity of property transactions within the state."

Implementation of registration reforms

The department piloted property registration in three taluks to assess its effectiveness before implementing it statewide in September. This initiative aims to facilitate the identification of genuine property owners and curb illegal activities.

"Currently, the requirement is to submit one of the three documents. However, if Aadhaar verification is to be made compulsory in the future, amendments to the central government's Registration Act of 1908 will be necessary. Discussions have already taken place at the departmental level regarding this amendment. Due to delays in the amendment process, the cabinet has decided to make the submission of Aadhaar along with the other two documents mandatory. The positive response to this decision reflects a desire for 100% Aadhaar verification in future registrations," said an official.

Good registration

Since the introduction of the requirement to submit one of the three documents, approximately 60% to 65% of registrations have utilised Aadhaar verification. "Measures have been implemented to protect Aadhaar card data," claimed an official.

HEALTH TIP: Studies show that positive social interactions help increase oxytocin, a hormone that reduces stress

Nature has a calming effect on our minds and bodies, helping to reduce stress and improve mood

BangaloreMirror | 7
Thursday, November 14, 2024
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MOTHERS, METAPHORS AND DYSLEXIA

What language reveals about the challenges of a child's learning disability

Alarm bells. Red flags. A labyrinth.

These are just a few of the metaphors that mothers of children with dyslexia use to describe the journey from noticing their child's literacy challenges to receiving a diagnosis and then advocating to secure services to help their children succeed. By paying attention to the images used in these metaphors, teachers and administrators can better understand the difficulties parents and children face and learn to be more responsive.

In 2021, as my child entered third grade, I was sure she had dyslexia – a learning disability that can affect reading, writing, spelling, memory and organisation. For advice and encouragement, I turned to an online support group for parents of children with dyslexia, which affects between 3% and 7% of the population worldwide. I noticed that when the mothers in the group described their experiences in social media posts, they frequently used metaphors.

As a communication researcher, I wondered what lessons about this experience could be drawn from this use of metaphors – a figure of speech that makes an implied comparison, such as "heart of gold" or "a roller coaster of emotions". I decided to find out. It turns out, the mothers' metaphors not only reveal much about the challenges these parents face, but how to help them overcome those challenges as well.

A closer look

Over a six-month period in 2022 and 2023, I analysed 579 posts by members of the online support group. The posts, all written by mothers, were selected from thousands by eliminating those that simply shared resources or motivational quotes.

The mothers who posted were often overwhelmed by their child's diagnosis. They wrote of learning to cope with the pain of seeing their child struggle and the difficulty of working with school systems to get their child needed support. They used metaphors to make sense of their emotions surrounding the dyslexia diagnosis, their interactions with schools and their identity as advocates.

The metaphors provide clues to improving the way schools work with children with dyslexia – and other learning disabilities – and their families. For instance, knowing that many mothers describe the process of obtaining support for their child as a "labyrinth," schools could focus on reducing bureaucratic barriers and providing clearer, more accessible pathways to intervention.

Motherly instincts

Mothers often describe the early stages of this journey – before a child's diagnosis – as knowing something is wrong but being unable to put a name to it. "Looking at his spelling and reading with him is setting off my alarm bells," one mother commented. Said another, "Are these red flags or just me reading too much into things?"

Once the mothers had a word – dyslexia – to identify the cause of their child's difficulties, they dived headfirst into research, seeking resources to help their child succeed. Many compared this experience to being "caught in a whirlwind" of new information.

"I am in overdrive googling, reading, watching videos and reaching out," said one mother. Another called the diagnosis an eye-opener. "We are beating ourselves up for the times we saw his refusal to do spelling words or writing as being lazy or not caring."

Mothers encouraged one another to trust their instincts. One admitted, "I knew in my bones something was wrong." Another mother commented: "Stick to your gut. If you have any inkling that your child is off track, do not wait for anyone else to step up — be your child's champion."

Navigating schools

Although children with a diagnosed disability are entitled to an individual education plan, or IEP, getting help from the school district for a child with dyslexia, or another learning disability, is often difficult. Many mothers compared this experience to navigating a maze or a labyrinth in which they encountered numerous obstacles. They commonly characterized the complicated, tiring series of steps required for securing an IEP as "a lengthy journey", "jumping through hoops", "a charade" and an "uphill battle".

They often viewed the educational system as intimidating and unyielding. The maze metaphor emphasises the confusion many parents feel when trying to understand the jargon and legal terms they must use to secure educational support.

The resistance mothers encountered largely reflects the high costs of special education services, which, coupled with a lack of funding, spreads school resources thin. While schools will conduct an evaluation to determine if a child qualifies for additional help, they do not provide a detailed diagnosis, and such evaluations often take place after a child has fallen behind academically.

An educational psychologist can provide a diagnosis of dyslexia after an extensive evaluation process, but this testing is expensive, costing as much as US$5,000, depending on the location and the specialist selected. To further complicate the situation, a private diagnosis does not guarantee support from the school district.

Showing the way

The mothers' language serves as a guide on how to approach the process. They warn each other not to delay raising concerns: "Do not get buried in the wait-and-see approach, this is a wait-to-fail approach," urged one mother. Another mother advised, "You have to be the squeaky wheel – squeak with data and the law under your belt."

Research shows that providing supports for children with dyslexia is more than a request for an accommodation; it is a battle for educational equity. Children whose dyslexia is not recognized may be viewed as less intelligent and less motivated by teachers and other children.

As a result, dyslexic children may not thrive socially, emotionally or academically.

Reframing dyslexia through metaphors

Mothers use metaphors of distance to convey that dyslexia is a long-term journey that requires sustained effort, patience and endurance.

"This is a marathon, not a sprint, and we are on the right course," wrote one mother. "It's a tough, long slog, do not forget to celebrate the small victories along the way," said another.

The language shows the difficulties that mothers face not only in securing vital support services for their children, but also in learning to support and accept their child and the way dyslexia impacts them.

Focusing on the whole child, instead of the child's limitations, can help mothers see that dyslexia is just one aspect of their child's identity. "We can't fix them because they are not broken," wrote one mother.

Despite the challenges, many moms agreed that "dyslexia is a gift not opened in school." While traditional classrooms may overlook their children's talents, they noted their children's creativity, resilience and "outside the box" thinking. They hold onto the hope that their children will find places where they can flourish.

Jenna Abetz, College of Charleston, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Egg-freezing

STEPS

Initial Research: One should begin with a thorough consultation with a fertility specialist. During this visit one should discuss their clinical history, lifestyle, and reproductive goals. This personalised approach will help lay the foundation for the process.

Ovarian Stimulation: The key is to gather multiple eggs. For this, women undergo controlled ovarian stimulation with hormone injections and or oral medications. These medications signal the ovaries to produce several eggs rather than the usual single egg per cycle. This process can last about 10–14 days.

Monitoring: All women are regularly monitored with ultrasounds and blood tests to understand the response to the medications. The growth of the follicles (where the eggs develop) will be tracked to ensure optimal timing for retrieval.

Egg Retrieval: Once the eggs are ready, a minor surgical procedure is performed under sedation wherein a thin needle guided by ultrasound is used to retrieve the eggs from your ovaries. This is a quick procedure lasting about 10–15 minutes.

Freezing : The retrieved eggs are immediately frozen using a method called vitrification. This rapid freezing technique prevents the formation of ice crystals, ensuring that the eggs remain viable for future use.

Aspects

Ideal Age: The best time to consider egg freezing is in your late 20s to early 30s as the egg quality is typically higher in this age bracket.

Costs and Insurance: One should be aware of the financial aspects before starting any medical process . Also, not all insurance plans cover the procedure. Some companies do cover for their employees.

Emotional Support: The process can be emotionally taxing. The support of your loved ones is paramount, however, one can also consider connecting with support groups or counselling services for guidance and community.

—Dr Firuza Parikh, IVF specialist, for Femina

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I, SATISH KUMAR S/o. Muthu.P. Residing at No.2/1, 2nd Cross, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560091, have changed my name to SATHISH KUMAR M vide affidavit dated: 11.11.2024 Sworn before notary: L Veena, Bangalore

I, Manjula Virabhadrappa Chavannavar D/o Virbhadrappa Chavannavar R/o Plot Street, Palikoppa, Taluka and District: Dharwad, State: Karnataka, have changed my name to Kavya Mallikarjun Dhanigond.

I, Farzana W/o Abdul Azeez Mahamaad Kunhi R/o 4-608, Maknemigudde House, Vitla, Bantwal, Dakshina Kannada 574243 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Farzana Abdul Azeez Affidavit Dt.13/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Nadiya D/o Aboobacker Thayilavalappail R/o Room No 502, Kavitha's Royal Nest, 4th A Cross Rd, Manjunatha Nagar, Shirdi Sai Nagar, Munnekollal, B'luru-560037 have changed my name to Nadiya Aboobacker for all Puposes.

I, Raghuvendra Pinni Sreeramsetty S/O, Sreeramsetty Pinni R/o No 2/1 Nandi Layout Sampige Nagar Road Kammasandra Electronic City Anekal Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to Raghavendra P S for all purposes.

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I, Gauri Ajay Danait R/o 406, Vishwothama Apts,jambu Savari Dinne ,jp Nagar 8 Phase 560083 have changed my minor son's name from Atharv Danait to Atharv Ajay Danait.

I Punam Khanna W/o Amit Khanna R/o H.no 827, I/s Beri Gate, Katra Bhai Sant Singh, Gali Dalalan Wali, Amritsar I, Amritsar, Punjab 143001 have changed my name to Manasvi Khanna for all purposes.

I, Shashikala W/o Harsha R/a C-003, M S Palazzo, Jakkur Main Road, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064. Have Changed To Shashikala Harsha. Vide Afft Dt: 12.11.2024. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraju.E.

I, Dindukurthi Jaya Harsha Vardhan Sireesha R/o: #1790, 18th A Main Road, Jayanagar 4th T Block, Bangalore-560041, have changed my name to Veerabomma Sireesha

I, Showket Pasha S/o Abdulla Sab R/o 50/9, 1st Floor 15th Cross lakkasandra B'lore-560030 have changed my name to Showkath Pasha.

I, Sohum Jain S/o Mahendra Jain R/o 13-C, 1st C main, 14th C cross, Fern hills Apartments, HSR layout, Sector-6, Bengaluru 560102 have changed my name to Soham Jain affidavit Dt.13/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Rajakuamra Shanthappa Kulmer R/o Flat.106, Gaganmurthy GF, PM layout, V.Nagenahalli, RT nagar, B'luru 560032 have changed my name to Rajkumar Shanthappa Kulmer Affidavit Dt.13/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Ghouse Ahmed, Son of Showkath And Ayesha Siddique, No.6, 7th A Cross, Near Sulthan Masid, Kanakanagar, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032 hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ghouse Ahmed To Showkath Ghouse Ahmed. Similarly, I declare that my father's name has been changed from Showkath to Razak Showkath.

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Sweet chemistry
Bollywood heartthrob Sidharth Malhotra reveals that he loves Kishore Kumar songs. He is reported to next be seen in a romantic fantasy film starring opposite his wife, Kiara Advani

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Good response

The team of the Kannada movie 'Maryade Prashne' is excited about the appreciation for the movie's trailer. Actor Kiccha Sudeep released the trailer for the realistic revenge drama, stating that he really liked the trailer. "It was cut in a way that reveals plenty yet leaves you curious. I am proud of the direction the Kannada film industry is heading in," he said.

The trailer has been receiving appreciation from all corners. Over 300 personalities, including RJs, singers, actors, doctors, lawyers, and entrepreneurs, have shared their admiration for the trailer on social media. Speaking at the event, the film's director, Nagaraja Somayaji said, "When a story is told with authenticity, it feels closer to the audience. Kannada audiences never failed to support good Kannada films, which is why Kannada cinema is reaching audiences globally.'

Continued support

Actor-cum-director Duniya Vijay, aka Vijay Kumar, is known for encouraging newcomers. A few weeks ago, Vijay announced his support for the Kannada movie 'Dheera Bhagat Roy'. Now, he has come forward to support the team of 'Love Reddy'. The movie, made in Telugu, is now being dubbed in Kannada. It is said that Vijay happened to watch the movie, appreciated its content, and agreed to present Love Reddy in Kannada. "I will try to make arrangements to release 'Love Reddy' in Dubai," Vijay said.

Smaran Reddy helmed the movie based on a real incident. The trailer for the Kannada version was released by Vijay. Six people have bankrolled the movie that is set to arrive in theatres in Karnataka on November 22. The producers said, "...The content of the movie is very good. The Telugu version got a good response from moviegoers. We are grateful to Vijay for supporting the Kannada version of the movie." NT Ramaswamy, one of the actors of Love Reddy, has recalled how a woman rushed towards him and slapped him after watching the Telugu version in Hyderabad. "The incident indicates that audiences have accepted my character in the movie," he said.

INTERNATIONAL FAME

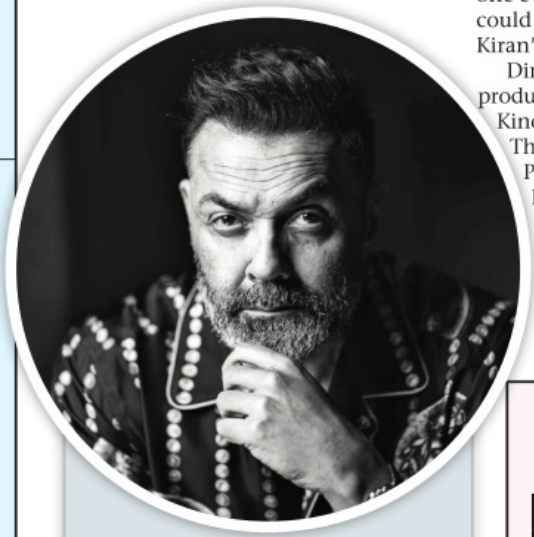
Director Kiran Rao receives hilarious storyline for sequel by comedian Zarna

Producer Kiran Rao's highly anticipated comedy 'Laapataa Ladies' finally takes a giant leap toward the global arena. Declared the official Indian entry for the 2025 Oscars, the movie has been branded 'Lost Ladies' for international viewers. The new title comes with a whimsical and colourful poster that speaks highly of the movie's heartwarming themes based on self-discovery and growth. In fact, the very tagline of the film, "Sometimes you have to lose your way to find yourself," forms the essence of this journey as the central characters, Phool and Jaya, experience it.

Comedian Zarna Garg took a humorous turn on the buzz surrounding 'Lost Ladies', pitching a potential sequel that's going to start laughter. In an entertaining Instagram video with Kiran Rao, Zarna effusively applauds The Lost Ladies, declaring it a "super hit" and demanding that it have a sequel. She lightheartedly suggests the sequel should be called 'Ladies We Want to Lose', and humorously requests Kiran to assist her on the mission, declaring, "...Start with my mother-in-law. Find her; she is in India, and lose her somewhere, please. I would like to be done with. Thank you for agreeing to this." The banter had the fans splitting their guts laughing; the video received comments in droves supporting opinions. Fans asked Zarna to feature in upcoming projects; someone even started a "petition" so she could feature in an item number in Kiran's project.

Directed by Kiran Rao, the film is produced by Aamir Khan Productions, Kindling Pictures, and Jio Studios. The movie features Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Ravi Kishan, Chhaya Kadam, and Geeta Aggarwal Sharma. The momentum for 'Lost Ladies' and its possible sequel keeps building as the team prepares for the international journey of the film.

—ETimes



Deadly charisma

Actor Bobby Deol and Suriya are all set for a major face-off in the fantasy action film 'Kanguva', directed by Siva. During a recent press conference in Mumbai ahead of the film's release on November 14, director Siva revealed how he ended up choosing Bobby for the villain role.

Siva described Bobby as a fantastic actor and a great human being. "I saw a clip of him on Instagram. He was getting out of a car at the airport, and the kind of swag he carried inspired me (to cast him for 'Kanguva'). I was waiting to find my Udhiran, the character Bobby sir plays in the film," he said.

"I can simply say that if Bobby sir was an animal in 'Animal' (2023), here he's a wild animal!" Siva stated.

Siva praised Bobby's impressive portrayal of the character. He highlighted the actors expressions, confident demeanor, charismatic screen presence, and action skills, noting how these elements significantly enriched the character. — ETimes

Powerful first look

Actor Vicky Kaushal has dropped a powerful first look as he gears up for Lord Parashurama in the film 'Mahavatar.' Unveiled on Wednesday, the look already generated considerable buzz among fans. Directed by Amar Kaushik, known for his successful work on 'Stree 2,' 'Mahavatar' is set to hit theatres on Christmas 2026.

In the first look motion poster shared by Vicky on social media, he appears royally fierce and determined, embodying the essence of Parashurama. The caption reads: "Dinesh Vijan brings to life the story of the eternal warrior of dharma! Vicky Kaushal stars as Chiranjeevi Parashurama in #Mahavatar, directed by Amar Kaushik. Coming to cinemas - Christmas 2026!" This announcement has heightened expectations for what promises to be a visually stunning and narratively rich film.

'Mahavatar' dives into the realm of mythological storytelling and film will begin production in November 2025, once Vicky Kaushal completes his current project, 'Love & War,' directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

As anticipation builds for 'Mahavatar,' fans are eager to see how Amar Kaushik will bring this epic tale to life. Meanwhile, Vicky Kaushal is gearing up for his role as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in the historical drama 'Chhaava,' initially set to release on December 6, 2024. However, to avoid a box office clash with Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2: The Rule,' the film's makers are considering rescheduling its release date. While no official announcement has been made yet. — ETimes

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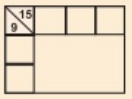
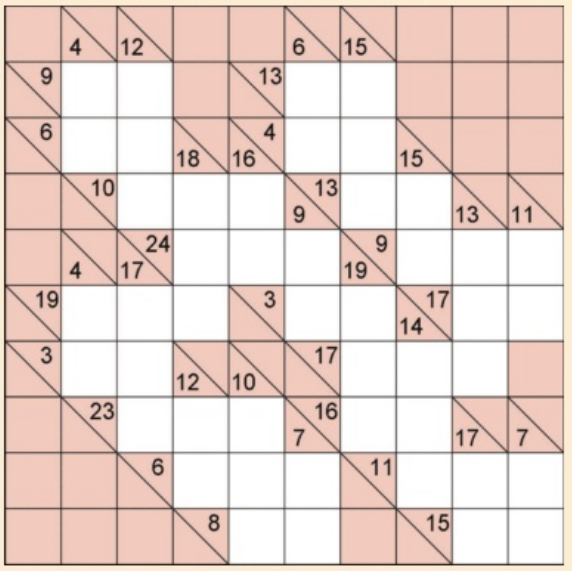
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

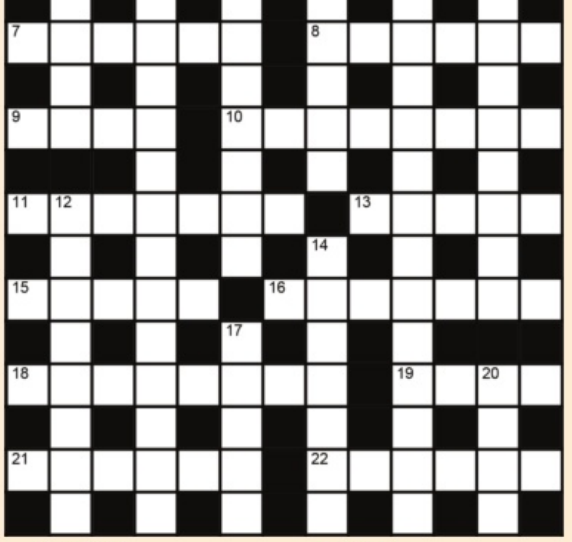


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Young swan (6)
8 Sameness in pitch (6)
9 ___ fixe : an obsession ? (4)
10 Goes over one's tracks (8)
11 Because of (7)
13 European Country (5)
15 A snake (5)
16 Surround (7)
18 Court of justice (8)
19 Pull or lug with hand (4)
21 Ski race (6)
22 Period of immaturity (6)

DOWN

1 Former wicket-keeper __ Kirmani (4)
2 Securely acquired, in a way? (5,4,4)
3 Warehouse charge (7)
4 Rather (5)
5 Not living up to expectation (13)
6 Standing tall (8)
12 Tipu Sultan's father (5,3)
14 Vending (7)
17 Adversary (5)
20 Labels (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS Y

NSAO FCZN ZSI'PO C VIE, NSAO FCZN ZSI'PO C HTBFNDTOKF.

Linemaro

Even the sun is jealous of the way you shine

Mindchow

Best friends know how crazy you are and still choose to be seen with you in public

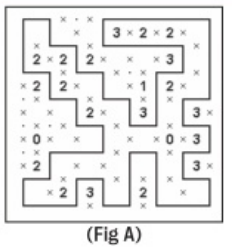
Joke of the day

Q. If you're going to make a parachute jump, at least how high should you be?
A. Three days of steady drinking should do it

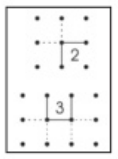
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

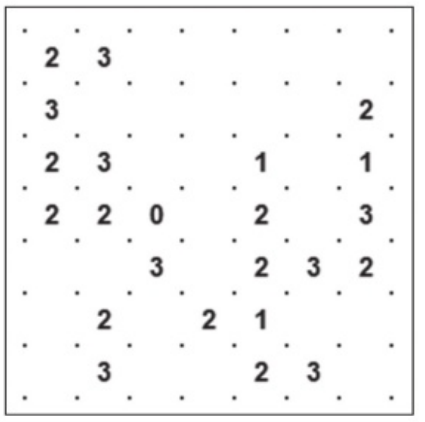


(Fig B) Not Allowed

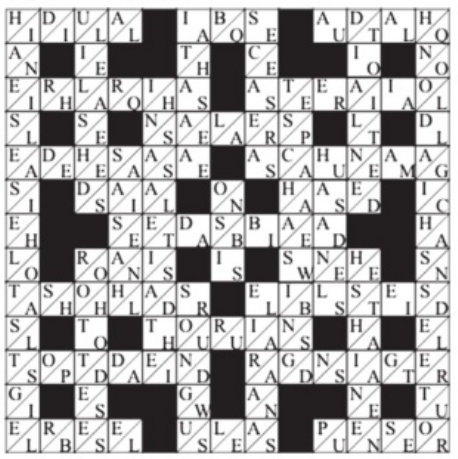
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



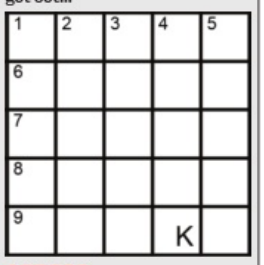
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

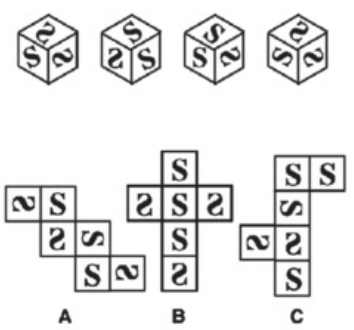
1 Whams; 6 Atria; 7 Lader; 8 Alice; 9 Dr Sok

DOWN

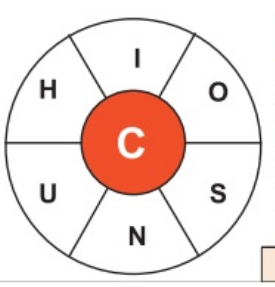
1 Adits; 2 Holla; 3 Aired; 4 We ark; 5 Crams

Mensapuzzle

Here is one cube from 4 different perspective. When Opened up, it will look like one of the three figures. Which one?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		9	5		6	7		
	3	8	7		4	5	1	
2			3	5	1			8
		6				2		
8			6	7	2			9
	4	2	9		7	3	8	
		3	1		8	9		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

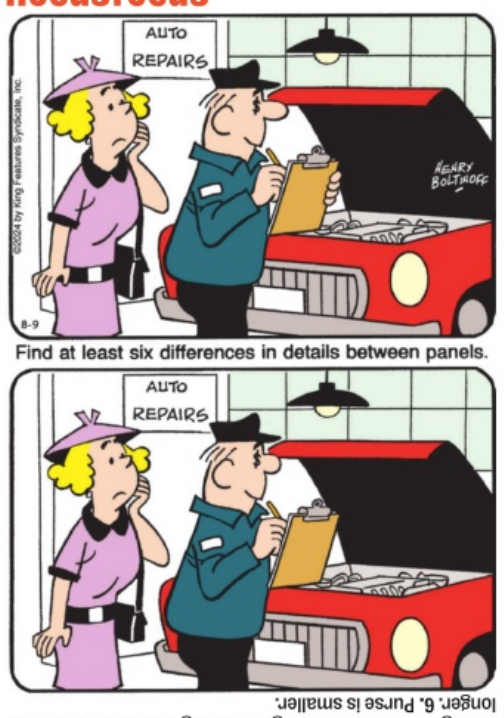
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15
5 5 7 8

Medium = 19
3 4 5 7

Hard = 16
1 5 7 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

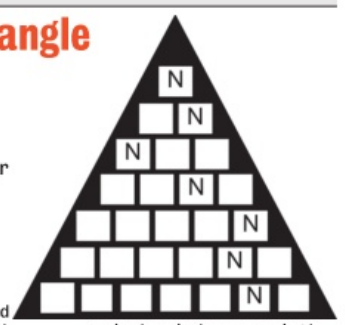
Differences: 1. Nose is smaller. 2. Belt is higher. 3. Fingers are not showing. 4. Headlight is lower. 5. Arm is longer. 6. Purse is smaller.

Riddler

Though not a car or unicorn In front I sometimes sport one horn I'm not happy nor sharp as a tack Yet might be tack on someone's back Someone else might sit on me And I will help this one to flee But I can't help the one who flees From his responsibilities What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Article
3 Scold
4 Pealed
5 Wood feature
6 Preparing for war
7 Borders



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

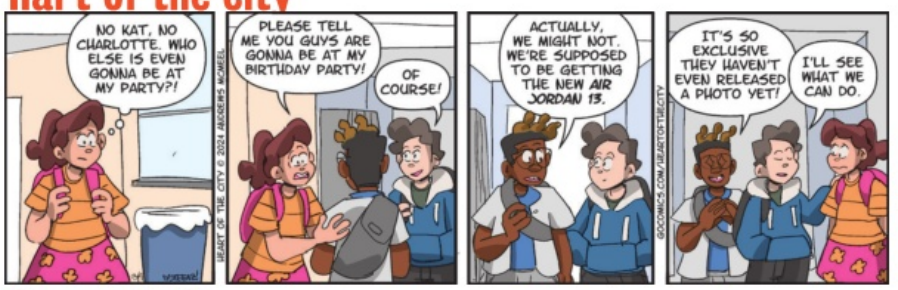
COMICS

Popeye

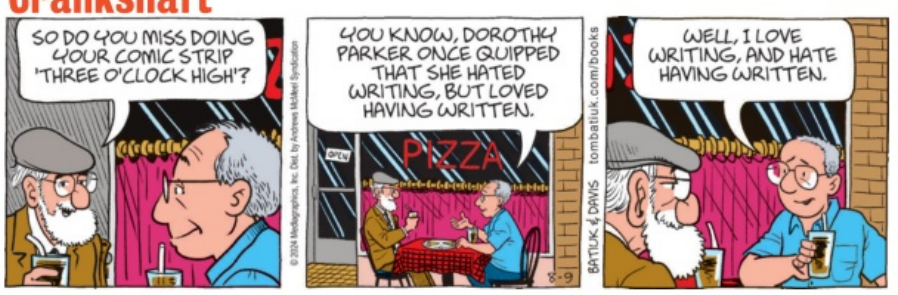
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may excel at work and strengthen bonds with seniors, possibly leading to new responsibilities or a promotion. Chronic health issues could improve. You might see positive outcomes from your hard work, and disputes with siblings may be resolved. Job seekers could find promising opportunities.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may focus on your children's academics; you may also plan for their higher studies. Couples may receive positive news related to childbirth. You might also consider furthering your own education to advance in your current role. Singles may find their ideal match.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you might feel out of touch with reality, making it hard to take on responsibilities. Some investments could incur losses, so it's advised to review documents carefully before signing. Concerns over elders' health may arise too. You may plan to renovate your home; however, it's best to delay these plans for now.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may help those in need, boosting your social reputation. Putting maximum effort into your work could lead to early completion. However, avoid overworking to prevent stress from impacting both your personal and professional life. Meditation and fasting may help you recharge. Good news from a sibling is likely.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you might be engaged in social and family events, and a polite demeanour could enhance your reputation among friends and relatives. Spending on artefacts or similar items may uplift your social status, and positive news from a close relative is likely too.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, any disputes with siblings may be resolved, strengthening your bond. Your energy levels seem high, enabling you to tackle difficult projects easily. A short work trip could expand your professional network. Helping someone in need may further enhance your social standing.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel low energy and face minor health concerns, with old ailments possibly resurfacing. It's best to avoid adventure activities or rash driving. Minor conflicts with a partner could arise, so avoid making major business decisions for now. Things may settle by evening.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel empowered and optimistic. Small investments might yield short-term gains. Positive interactions with your boss could lead to career advancements. Your social standing may rise now. You may also plan for some work-related short trips.

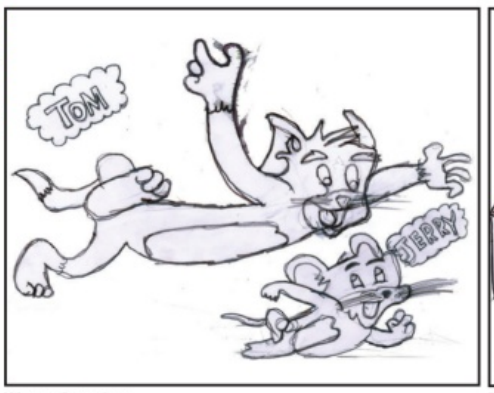
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today looks promising, and you'll likely feel enthusiastic. Focused efforts at work could lead to promotions, with your boss showing support for your ideas. A visit to a religious site may be uplifting, but it is advised that you avoid arrogance or ego in your love life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, lack of rest may leave you feeling sluggish. Arrogance might spark disputes with your spouse, affecting domestic harmony. Investors should avoid risky ventures, while students are advised to stay focused on their studies. Couples may find some distance beneficial for the relationship.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, patience is key. If you're considering an adventure trip, it's best to postpone it. Past investments might not yield expected returns, and overworking could lead to exhaustion. Students should be diligent in their academics. Health-wise, take care of back pain and be mindful of nervous, liver, and skin issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is favourable for finances. Investments may bring good returns, improving your financial stability, and any stuck funds could be recovered, boosting business liquidity. Confidence may rise, allowing you to manage hidden enemies and competitors well. Singles might find a potential partner in their workplace or field.

KIDZONE



Vikram, Bengaluru

Ramya Murthy, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
5^(2+2-4+0-2)
= 5^0 = 1

RIDDLER A saddle

BULL'S EYE
chin, coin, cousin, inch, ouch, scion, sonic, such

FAST FIVE

S	H	A	W	M
T	A	I	R	A
A	L	D	E	R
I	L	E	A	C
D	O	R	K	S

STRIKE OUT

H	I	L	L		A	B	S		U	T	A	H		
A		E		T		C		O		O				
I	R	A	Q	I	S		A	E	R	I	A	L		
L		S		N	E	A	R	S		L		D		
S	O	D	D	E	N		A	G	N	A	T	E		
	S		O		T	U	R	I	N		H		L	
A	S	H	L	A	R		L	I	S	T	E	D		
L		R	A	I		I		W	E	E		N		
E		S	T	A	B	B	E	D				A		
S	D	I	A		O		H	A	D			C		
	E	D	E	S	A	S	C	H	E	M	A			
		R		A		E		P						
I	D	E	E		R	E	T	R	A	C	E	S		
E		D		O		I		S		W				
C	Y	G	N	E	T		U	N	I	S	O	N		
			G		Y		G		N					
		S	L	A	L	O	M		N	O	N	A	G	E
		A		E		I		I		A				
	T	R	I	B	U	N	A	L		T	O	T	E	
		E		S		E		L			N			
A	D	D	E	R		B	E	S	I	E	G	E		
		Y		N		S		O			N			
T	H	R	O	U	G	H		S	P	A	I	N		
		R		A		E		P				R

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Terms & Conditions apply. *Scheme is applicable on select variants of Hyundai VENUE, Hyundai EXTER, Hyundai i20 & Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS cars purchased between 1st - 30th November 2024. ^^Accessories package will not be applicable for EXTER Knight, VENUE (Knight, Adventure and Diesel variants). Accessory packages need to be purchased as a whole, and if accessories parts are purchased independently, then offer will not be applicable. Cash discount can't be availed against this offer. Benefits may vary with variants. Features and specifications shown may vary or may not be a part of standard fitment and are subject to change without prior notice. Hyundai Motor India reserves the right to change specifications, colour, equipment and schemes at any time without prior notice. ##Scrappage bonus is applicable on select models subject to receipt of valid Certificate of Deposit issued by Govt. approved & operational vehicle scrappage center. #CSD: Canteen Stores Department, KPKB: Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar.